

Access to VRS finally levels the playing field for telecommunications for Deaf people. Deaf persons are now able to perform many of the same jobs that they have been denied access to because of this technology. In our office, we are now able to handle calls to request medical records, schedule procedures and make many of the other contacts that we need to do and do this in a way that makes the time required roughly equivalent to what a hearing person would need. This is the true measure of "functional equivalency." Can Deaf people now do what hearing can in the same length of time and with the same level of accuracy that hearing people can. VRS is the answer. It is imperative that you restore funding to the levels that allow the companies to provide adequate service. Thank you for your attention to this matter.